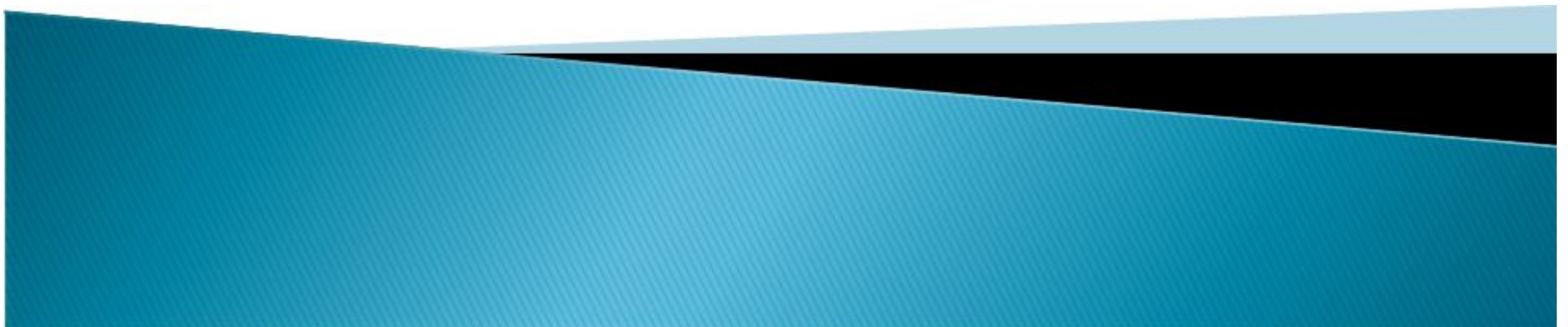


Acorn Park Association Comments for Planning Board

Tuesday July 22, 2008



Agenda

- ▶ Traffic Considerations
- ▶ Safety Considerations
- ▶ Closing Comments



Traffic Study

- ▶ Rob Woodland was hired by Acorn Park to prepare a traffic study
- ▶ Rob looked at traffic within Acorn Park and onto Route 2A in reaching his findings
- ▶ We understand that Conley Associates is in complete agreement with his findings



Traffic Study - Additional Comments

- ▶ The traffic study provide statistics as to traffic within Acorn Park but these numbers alone cannot address travel within Acorn Park
 - Parked cars are a significant issue and exacerbate the narrow roads and curvature
 - These same issues should not impact RQR due to fewer cars per household and ability to design roads to accommodate the cars in the residences
- ▶ Winters further contract the narrow roads



Hazelnut St.



Acorn Park Dr.



Acorn Park Dr.



Acorn Park Dr.



School Bus Stop in Winter – Hazelnut St



School Bus Stop in Winter – Palmer Ln



Safety Concerns

- ▶ Safety of RQR residents is not hindered by single access if emergency access exists
- ▶ Emergency access has been a well established solution for other neighborhoods
 - Planning Board can define the emergency access to which the developer has agreed to fully support
- ▶ Access to RQR by emergency vehicles will be through Skyline Dr. due to location of police, fire and emergency services
 - Winding narrow roads in Acorn Park with numerous parked cars would not be primary access for emergency vehicles



Safety Concerns

- ▶ Safety of Acorn Park residents is enhanced by not allowing direct access from RQR
 - Impacts safety of children in the neighborhood
 - Makes accidents with emerging traffic for Harris Street/Convenience Store plaza/Acorn Park Drive onto Rte 2A much more likely



Safety Solution

- ▶ Emergency access through Acorn Park
- ▶ Acorn Park Association Board and Developer are willing to accept any reasonable emergency access decision
- ▶ Planning Board should be seeking a solution which is a winning one for all Acton residents
 - Avoiding safety issues and a worsening of a neighborhood that can't meet Acton's standards
 - Providing safety to RQR with a well designed emergency access option



Closing Comments

- ▶ Emergency access will better equalize traffic flow than through-traffic access
- ▶ Emergency access consistent with policy and practice of Town of Acton
- ▶ Emergency access provides greater safety to Acorn Park without any sacrifice in safety to RQR
- ▶ Emergency access avoids unworkable intersections at Route 2A



Closing Comments

- ▶ There is no traffic flow justification for worsening Acorn Park's traffic situation
- ▶ There is a real safety issue here and not one we should dismiss because a tragedy can't be undone later

